

Library



HEALTH
A 22 NOV 1960
C.R. 22

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1959

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending 31st December, 1959.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 4,666 acres.
Estimated resident population mid-1959, 17,090.
Sum realised by a penny rate, £1,118.
Number of inhabited houses, about 5,450.
Rateable value, £277,448.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	262	145	117
Illegitimate	18	10	8
Birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population mid-1959, 16·38.			

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	10	5	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per thousand total (live and still) births, 34·48			

DEATHS	248	122	126
Death rate per thousand of the estimated average population, 14·51.			

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes	0	0

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	25·00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	22·90
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	55·50
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	29
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	3
Deaths from lung cancer	2

The comparable figures for towns of approximately the same size are as follows:—

Birth rate per 1,000	16·2
Death rate per 1,000	15·4
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age	28·4

In the Borough there is a School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, two General Hospitals, a Hospital for chronic sick and aged female patients, and an Orthopaedic Clinic held twice weekly at the North Cambs. Hospital. Infectious Diseases are accommodated at Peterborough and East Dereham Isolation Hospitals

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are available, whilst Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part time officer, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Deputy Senior Public Health Inspectors, all full-time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic in Norwich Road is held weekly on Friday afternoons and is well attended.

WELFARE ATTENDANCES FOR 1959

Number of children who attended during year	464
Number of children who attended for the first time, and who at their first attendance were under one year	153
Number of children attending born in 1958 ...	158
Number of children attending born 1954-57 ...	153
Total number of attendances made by children during the year:—	
1. Under 1 year of age	1561
2. 1 year of age but under 2 years.....	2112
3. 2 years of age but under 5 years	1358
Total	5031

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Number of children under the age of 5 years who have completed a full course of immunisation against Diphtheria during year	152
Between the ages of 5-9 years	6

HOUSING.

FUTURE REQUIREMENTS.

a. Applicants on waiting list at end of year	298
b. Unfit houses requiring replacement	323
c. Houses to be demolished for redevelopment (not included in (b) above)	184

BUILDING.

HOUSES COMPLETED:—

	1958	1959
Wisbech Corporation	87	42
Private Enterprise	20	30
Total post war houses completed and occupied	991	1063

WORK IN HAND AT END OF YEAR:—

Wisbech Corporation	14	4
Private Enterprise	22	41

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Total cases Notified	Deaths
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet fever	33	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Pneumonia	4	12
Erysipelas	3	0
Puerperal pyrexia	0	0
Enteric fever	0	0
Measles	519	0
Acute Encephalitis	1	0
Whooping cough	19	0
Paratyphoid fever	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	0
Food poisoning	0	0
Dysentery	1	0

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and over	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11	2	1	0	1	0	0	0

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the Year 1959

Public Health Department,
Exchange Square, Wisbech.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wisbech

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I respectfully submit to you my third Annual Report relating the statistics and points of interest which arise from the surveillance of the environmental health service in the Borough.

The staff was changed during the year, Mr. D. G. H. Bruce leaving for Hunstanton in March ; subsequently Mr. M. A. Gregory of Norwich was appointed my Deputy and commenced duties in mid-July. Interruption in the routine activities was inevitable, but there is progress to be seen.

I wish to thank the staff of the Department for their loyalty and also other Departments for their co-operation. The Public Health Committee have always given due consideration to all matters and I appreciate their support.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

D. BROOK, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.C.,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Complaints:—

Housing	456
Other	420
Drainage Inspected and Tested	478
Cesspools and Sewer Connections	90
Caravans	101
Filthy and Verminous Premises	12
Infectious Disease	3
Common Lodging Houses	23
Sanitary Improvements	193

HOUSING ACTS.

Inspected and Recorded	229
Housing Applications	49
Improvement Grants	47

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Slaughterhouses	1280
Knackers Yards	15
Food Shops	67
Food Preparation Premises	69
Ice Cream Premises	21
Dairy Premises	15
Licensed Premises	1
Market Stalls	182
Unsound Food Visits	22

RENT ACT.

Inspections	79
-------------------	----

WATER SUPPLY.

Inspections	1
-------------------	---

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections	27
-------------------	----

FACTORY ACT.

Inspections	31
-------------------	----

PET ANIMALS ACT.

Inspections	1
-------------------	---

CLEAN AIR ACT.

Inspections and Observations	93
------------------------------------	----

RODENT CONTROL.

Inspections	52
-------------------	----

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE) ACT.

Inspections	4
-------------------	---

WATER SUPPLY

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough of Wisbech is supplied with water from the Wisbech and District Water Board and the Manager has made available regular monthly summaries of routine bacteriological samples taken in the Borough.

	<i>Samples submitted</i>	<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory</i>
Water Board:—			
Chemical	36	36	Nil
Bacteriological	177	176	*1
Public Health Dept.:—			
Bacteriological	1	1	Nil

*The unsatisfactory sample was stated by the Board to be due to an error in sampling.

TYPICAL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS:
(expressed as parts per mil.)

Free CO2	18.0
Oxygen dissolved	7.89 (86% sat.)
Oxygen absorbed (4hrs. at 37°C)	0.21
Nitrogen Ammoniacal	0.177
Nitrogen Albuminoid	0.027
Nitrogen Nitrate	7.56 (32.7 as NO3)
Nitrogen Nitrite	Nil
Alkalinity	199
Hardness Carbonate	79
Hardness Total	278
Monochloramine	
FREE CHLORINE	0.45
Total Solids (180°C)	387
Aluminium (Al)	Nil
Calcium (Ca)	91.8
Iron (Fe)	Very slight trace
Magnesium (Mg)	14.0
Manganese (Mn)	Nil
Lead (Pb)	Nil
Sodium (Na) (Cale)	10.7
Zinc (Zn)	Nil
Silica (SiO2)	7.0
Sulphate (S.O.4)	38.5
Carbonate (CO3)	119.4
Chloride (Cl)	31.3
Fluoride	0.05

TYPICAL BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

WATER.

Tap Water.	13th Jan., 1959	12.00 noon.
Probable number of coliform bacilli,		
MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.	Nil	per 100 ml.
Remarks:	Satisfactory.	

EXTENSIONS TO MAINS.

Number of new connections made — 64.			
Oldfield Lane	552 yards	6"	S.I.
	12 yards	3"	S.I.
Mount Drive Housing Site	271 yards	3"	S.I.
Bodger's Field Housing Site.....	145 yards	3"	S.I.
Bush Lane	298 yards	4"	S.I.
Westfield Road Housing Site ...	24 yards	3"	S.I.

WISBECH IMPROVEMENT SCHEME :

Scheme No. :—

N.B. 1	North Brink	816 yards	4"	S.I.
N.B. 2	North Brink	254 yards	6"	S.I.
N.B. 3	Chapel Road			
	to Town Bridge	55 yards	6"	S.I.

SANITARY CONDITIONS IN THE BOROUGH.

In 1958 a special survey was completed and reported in regard to the absence of proper flush toilets, inside

piped water supplies and sinks in houses. Following this report the Public Health Committee recommended action to secure the provision of these amenities in all dwellinghouses, where it was expected that the property had a potential life of more than 5 years, in those areas where a public sewer and water supply were available. The response to the informal intimation to owners has been good and much of the work has been done. The decision of the Council to make contributions to the owners of property towards the cost of the closet conversions was a real expedient and this money has been of benefit to health of the community. The appreciation expressed by the tenants of improved dwellings was most marked in elderly folks despite their reluctance in the early stages to have an upset in their house.

PROGRESS REPORT.

A survey carried out during 1958 revealed the following conditions:—

Houses without a supply of wholesome water in pipes in the house	246
Houses without an internal wash-up sink	383
Houses with only pail or vault closets	35
Houses with W.C's, without flushing cisterns...	360
Houses without proper dustbins	88

As a result of informal action by this Department, the following improvements have so far been made:—

Houses provided with a supply of wholesome water in pipes in the house	69
Houses provided with internal wash-up sink ...	83
Houses provided with flushing cisterns to W.C's.	144
Houses provided with proper dustbins	88

With the authority of the Public Health Committee, Statutory Notices have been served as follows:—

Requiring houses to be provided with a supply of wholesome water in pipes in the house ...	45
Requiring houses to be provided with an internal wash-up sink and necessary drainage ...	71
Requiring the provision of flushing cisterns to W.C's.	54

The remainder of the houses comprise:—

Unfit houses and houses in proposed redevelopment areas.
Houses to which there is either no mains water or sewer available.
Houses with cesspool drainage or pail closets and in respect of which statutory action has not been taken.

Short extensions were made to the public sewer in Norwich Road. A new contract has been commenced to provide foul and surface water sewers in the Money Bank area.

It has been my concern to realise the number of cesspools which exist within the Borough, particularly in the sewered areas. A survey was completed in the latter part of the year to provide details of their location. An all-out effort will be made to eliminate these cesspools, the majority of which are thought to be defective. Due notice has been given to owners and occupiers of a new economic charge for the emptying of cesspools in sewered areas (an increase from 7 shillings to £2). Further inspections will be made of these installations at the time of emptying and appropriate notices served on the owner.

There are 173 cesspools in the Money Bank area and 156 in other sewered areas, so that our objective will be to get rid of at least 300 cesspools attached to fit dwellinghouses and other premises.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Borough Engineer has been able to continue the operation of a regular weekly collection of household refuse. Disposal has taken place at points outside and inside the Borough by tipping which was not always controlled according to the Ministry of Health's recommendations.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

It was not possible, during 1959, to carry out a detailed survey of holdings within the Borough, but eight visits were made to horticultural establishments employing both regular and seasonal workers and in each case it was found that satisfactory sanitary accommodation was provided.

A great difficulty in this area arises from the large scale employment of agricultural gang workers; it is hard to plot the operations of the gang who, of course, change their place of employment frequently, unless a special survey allocated to one officer full time during the summer months could be organised and, in practice, this is extremely difficult in view of the amount of other work required of the Council's public health inspectorate.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Borough Council own and operate at Crabmarsh on Open Air Swimming Bath, 132' 6" long x 30' wide x 6' 6" at deep end and 3' 6" at shallow end, giving a capacity of 120,000 gallons.

The source of water used in the Bath is the main supply of the Wisbech and District Water Board. The treatment is by a Bell Bros. bath filtration plant using soda and alumina prior to filtration and chlorination. The water in the bath is changed every 6 hours.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 came into force. These re-enact with

amendments the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954.

The principal changes are:—

- (a) Distributors now need only register with the local authority in whose area their premises are situated;
- (b) Local authorities barring persons who are suffering from contacts with infectious diseases from handling milk will be required to pay compensation;
- (c) Improvements are made in the standards of hygiene required in milk premises to bring them into line with those in the Food Hygiene Regulations.

REGISTRATION AND LICENSING.

There are 30 names on the Register of Distributors of Milk and 4 premises registered as Dairies.

At the end of the year there were licensed:—

14 Dealers and 6 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Pasteurised Milk".

7 Dealers and 6 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

22 Dealers and 5 Supplementary Licences for the sale of "Sterilised Milk".

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

3 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough for examination.

Type of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphate Test		Turbidity Test	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	1	—	1	—	—	—
T.T. Past.	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total ...	2	—	2	—	1	—

The number of samples is low due to staff changes together with the pressure being brought on the Department to use the Public Health Laboratory Service at Cambridge in lieu of Peterborough.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND MEAT INSPECTION

The seven establishments continued to operate during the year. The duties of meat inspection take up an appreciable amount of time, including approximately six hours each week in the evenings, together with each Monday of a National Holiday and certain Sundays.

The meat condemnations reflect the programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to include this area within a zone for the Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis. The increase of tubercular meat and offal rejected suggests that farmers have been ridding their herds of reactors. Cysticercosis increased twofold ; this minute cyst found in beef may produce tapeworms in humans. Its continued incidence indicates unsatisfactory disposal of human excreta on to farm land.

A unique enactment appeared and was revoked before its coming into operation, namely the Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1959, governing the disposal of unsound meat. The Council made representations to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food seeking early replacement of the Regulations. Despite the absence of any directive, with the co-operation of the

slaughterhouse operators, all unsound meat was stained before removal for processing.

The future of the existing slaughterhouses remains under review. The publication of the specific Hygiene and Cruelty Regulations gave impetus to solving the problem locally. Negotiations were continued with the Fatstock Marketing Corporation in connection with the possible establishment of a municipal abattoir. The scheme did not materialise. A subsequent development resulted in the Council offering a suitable site for a private abattoir to an individual, already a slaughtering contractor and meat wholesaler in the town. It is envisaged that four slaughterhouses in Bartlett's Yard and one in Palmer's Place will be eliminated during the summer of 1961.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED DURING YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1959

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Sows and Boars
Number killed	1,505	189	21	3,920	9,453	1,272
Number inspected	1,505	189	21	3,920	9,453	1,272
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cys- ticercosis:						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	7	8	9	36	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	369	36	1	70	455	107
Percentage of the number inspected affected by disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticercosis	24·9%	22·75%	42·9%	2%	5·2%	9·1%
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	1	1	—	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	115	17	—	—	148	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8%	9·5%	4·8%	—	1·6%	3·1%
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	1	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total number of animals slaughtered 16,360

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATION.

	lbs.
Tuberculosis	10,048
Other Diseases	21,418
	<hr/>
	31,466
	<hr/>

KNACKERS YARD.

There is one Knackers Yard in the Borough with a small throughput. No live animal is admitted to the premises.

CARCASES ADMITTED TO KNACKERS YARD YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1959.

Horses	16
Cattle (excluding Cows)	40
Cows	14
Calves	17
Sheep	1

LICENCES.

38 persons were licensed to slaughter animals.

FOOD SHOPS

The following tabulated list gives the number of the various types of food premises in the Borough.

Bakehouses	18
Cafes and Canteens	13
Grocers and General Mixed Stores	75
Greengrocers	19
Fishmongers	6
Fried Fish Shops	16
Butchers	29
Sweet Manufacturers	1
Food Factories	14
Wholesale Fruit Merchants (processors)	13
Flour Millers and Granary	2
Licensed Premises and Clubs	67
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1
Market Stalls	34
Confectioners	24

On reflection there has not been enough time devoted to the inspection of food premises although the staff are forever in and out of such premises. The public expect a fair standard of hygiene and if they are becoming more selective in their shopping habits I feel sure that economics are not the sole reason for this change.

In collaboration with one of the local prepacking factories amendments were made to instructions given on the labels of prepacked meat. It was established that the time stated for cooking the meat was originally too short to destroy the organisms shown to exist in the type of meat used for manufacture. The firm have now undertaken the entire manufacture of this product in a

specially constructed department, with the support of a new and enlarged laboratory service.

List of improvements and unsatisfactory conditions remedied in Food Premises.

Hot water provided	4
Wash-hand basins provided.....	4
Ceilings and walls cleansed and repaired	5
Floors repaired	2

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs, apart from meat in slaughterhouses, were found unfit and surrendered.

TINS.

Meat	63
Fruit	80
Milk and Cream	9
Fish	11
Vegetables	16
Soup	12
Puddings	3
	<hr/>
	194
	<hr/>

JARS.

Pickles	18
Jam	11
	<hr/>
	29
	<hr/>

VARIOUS.

Potatoes	32 cwts.
Sausages	13 lbs.
Fat	1½lbs.
Bacon	37lbs.
Fish	4½ stones
Cooked Meats	44½lbs.
Choc Rolls	2 doz.
Chocolate	3 doz. bars
Cheese Spread	10lbs.

ANALYSES.

5 samples of food were submitted for analysis:—	
Bread	Unsatisfactory — mould and rope
Steak and Kidney Pie	Suspect
Steak and Kidney Pie	Suspect
Gravy from Steak and Kidney Pie	Suspect
Raw Beef used in manufacture of Meat Pies —	
	Satisfactory

ICE CREAM.

100 premises are registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale and 99 for the storage and sale of ice cream. Most ice cream is sold prepacked but contacts to impress the need for clean handling were made during the summer months with the various vehicles which run around the town during the evenings.

No samples of ice cream were submitted for examination during the year.

SCREENING OF FOOD HANDLERS.

Two hundred and sixty bacteriological examinations were carried out of specimens from food handlers during 1959. Three positive results were obtained namely:

- No. 1 Salmonella paratyphi B. type Taunton.
- No. 2 Shigella boydii type 4.
- No. 3 Shigella boydii type 7.

The persons concerned were excluded from food handling processes.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The main item to report is that there has been good observance of the Regulations. During the summer months a series of samples of grit were collected to bring evidence of pollution in the Lynn Road area. This routine formed part of a long struggle to prove to an industrialist that his boiler plant not only contravened the Dark Smoke Regulations at times but also created sporadic nuisances from gritty particles.

The cessation of some railway services on the Midland and Great Northern line together with the use of Diesel engines on the Great Eastern line have contributed to cleaner air. Some smoke still arises from shunting operations on the north and south of the river.

No special steps were taken to make use of powers to create any smoke control areas in the Borough. This may be a suitable opportunity to suggest that such a step would be appropriate wherever an area is being set out for new housing development.

HOUSING

(a) SLUM CLEARANCE.

The uphill battle to rid the Borough of unfit dwelling-houses continued. A review was made of those areas

which were in the priority range for action and the following report made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The figures represent a picture of the blighted areas of the town — indicating the need to provide at least 40 houses per annum to satisfy Slum Clearance demands.

THE TOTAL PROBLEM —

- (i) Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for human habitation 476
- (ii) Period of years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all houses in (i) 12

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN —

Number of houses demolished or closed since 1.1.56, including unfit houses owned by local authorities and those in unfitness orders 143

FURTHER PROPOSALS FOR ACTION IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS —

- (i) Number of houses to be demolished in clearance areas ; and
- (ii) Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere 237
- (iii) Number of houses to be patched and retained for temporary accommodation Nil

There are prospects of only a few new dwellinghouses being completed by the Council during 1960 and any displacement of families from unfit houses will be into houses purchased by the Council in potential Redevelopment Areas where again the tenants must expect only temporary sojourn.

At the end of the year the Council undertook to deal systematically with all their unfit property in the Horse-fair area.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE
Return for year ending 31st December, 1959

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED	Houses demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	13	—	—
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	—	—	—
3. Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957	9	12	4
5. Local authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	21	17	9
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local acts	—	—	—
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
8. Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	5	15	5
9. Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By owner	By Local Authority
11. After informal action by Local Authority	182	—
12. After formal notice under:—		
(a) Public Health Acts	5	—
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 ...	—	—
13. Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	—	—

Demolition of houses in Clearance Areas took place at:—

1-5 Cooks Passage
5-10 Blyford Square
186, 188 Elm Road

Individual unfit houses —

1 Blyford Square
176 Ramnoth Road
Caravan, Horsefair
149 Osborne Road
1 and 2 Ruby Passage
3 Canal Side
Bungalow, Crooked Bank
Caravan, Newbridge Lane

Council owned properties —

22 Prospect Place
16 Albion Place
35 Sluice Row
27 Elizabeth Terrace
210 and 212 Norwich Road
35a Brigstock Road
32 and 33 Napier Terrace
34-37 Horsefair
8-14 Bannisters Row
19 East Street

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

(b) IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS.

The introduction of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, brought to the Public Health Committee a new task in the administration of the granting of Improvement Grants. Standard Grants are obligatory and the Council suggested that for Discretionary Grants they would consider applications which involved the addition to a dwelling for the provision of a bathroom and closet.

Further Discretionary Grants would be considered in respect of the conversion of large houses into smaller self-contained flats.

I would have liked this section of my report to have been designed by a leading advertising agency to present to the house owners of Wisbech. The town contains a considerable number of dwellings which are adequate in size, have through ventilation, perhaps in need of a few repairs but lacking the modern amenities of adequate personal washing and bathing facilities, easily accessible water closet, a well-designed hot water supply and ventilated food store. I feel sure that owner-occupiers will see the advantages of Improvement Grants, but will the owners of tenanted property take a similar interest? I would like to think that the Borough Council will set an example to improve their prewar dwellings and perhaps set one house aside for a period as an exhibit to other landlords.

STANDARD GRANTS.

Applications received	27
Applications passed	18
Applications rejected —	
unfit	2
redevelopment	2
proposals unsatisfactory	3
all amenities already provided	1
Application withdrawn	1

Cases in which work completed:—

2 applications for total of £185:1:5

Amenities provided with the aid of grants:—

Bathrooms — 2
Hot water systems — 2
Larders — 2
Wash-hand basins — 2
Water closets — 1.

RENT ACT, 1957

There was a further reduction in the applications for Certificates of Disrepair, tenants apparently being satisfied to register normal complaints for action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1959 —

1. Number of applications for certificates	19
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	Nil
3. Number of decisions to issue certificates:	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects...	16
(b) in respect of all defects	3
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first schedule	3
5. Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first schedule	Nil
6. Number of certificates issued	13
7. Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	13
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	6
9. Decision by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection	Nil
10. Certificates cancelled by local authority	7

CARAVANS

One new private site for caravans became available during the year on which 20 living vans may be stationed, with a possibility of further extensions.

The disgraceful conditions continue to prevail along the two green droves off Stow Lane and Meadowgate Lane, the regular offenders providing attractions to the passing itinerants who in turn add nuisance to nuisance. There is no real sense of duty to press the itinerants to move on when the constant offenders remain in position.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Lectures were given to the Student Nurses Course (Isle of Ely College of Further Education) and to two voluntary organisations in the Borough.

Illustrated posters were distributed to food factories and cafes.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	27	19	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority...	107	104	5	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	3	1	—
Total	140	126	6	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Number of cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences —					
(a) insufficient	4	2	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	4	—	3	—

GENERAL

May I make special mention of the Agricultural Gangs Act. The Agricultural Gangs Act, 1867 is long out of date and either needs revision or abolition. The present situation indicates that it is outside the scope of a local district council to keep tabs on all that is happening in this type of organised labour, traditional only perhaps in East Anglia.

Matters arising from the Shops Act and Factories Act (including the issue of Certificates of Means of Escape from Fire), Pet Animals Act, Agricultural Gangs Act and Rodent Control have been efficiently carried out at the same time keeping a watchful eye over the activities in the Port of Wisbech.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1959

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				5. Agricul- tural
	1. Local Authority	2. Dwelling- houses inc. Council houses	3. All other including business premises	4. Total of Cols. 1, 2 and 3	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	36	5470	1263	6769	176
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	—	95	21	116	2
(b) Survey under the Act	36	994	133	1163	16
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	118	72	190	—
3. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats — Major	3	—	—	3	—
Minor	5	71	21	97	2
(b) Mice — Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	2	164	5	171	—
4. Number of infested properties (in Sec. IV) treated by the Local Authority	10	235	26	271	2

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

SECTION II — AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by M.O.H.	Number inspected by P.H.I.	Number of Ships reported as having or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
Foreign Ports	96	20,931 N.R. 39,610 Cargo	Nil	96	Nil
Coastwise	131	18,682 N.R. 43,688 Cargo	Nil	59	Nil
Total	227	39,613 N.R. 83,298 Cargo	Nil	155	Nil

SECTION III — CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers — Inwards: Nil

Number of passengers — Outwards: Nil

Cargo Traffic —

Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, grain, timber, fruit, potatoes.

Principal Exports: Grain, bricks, basic slag, coke breeze, fire clay.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive —

London, Hull, Immingham, Hamina, Esjberg, Gdansk, Pateneimi, Randers, Treport, Rotterdam, Ipswich, Abo, Archangel, Zeebruge.

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

This is not applicable as the port is not an “approved port” or a “designated approved port”.

Three applications were received for renewal of Deratisation Exemption Certificates. As the Port of Wisbech is not an “Approved Port” recognised by the Ministry of Health to grant such Certificates it was necessary to seek the assistance of the King’s Lynn Port Health Inspector. Any travelling or subsistence involved has to be settled by the Shipping Brokers.